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LETTER DATED 5 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter, dated today, from my Prime Minister to Your Excellency.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Ambassador and
Deputy Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 5 February 1994 from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

In the morning hours of today (EST), Serbian gunners in the hills surrounding Sarajevo shelled a crowded market on Marshal Tito Street killing and wounding, at most recent estimates, 66 and 197 civilians respectively. It is feared that these figures are not final. These aggressors besieging Sarajevo for 22 months now, have shown that there are no limits to their barbarity. By idly watching the slaughter of our civilians and simultaneously denying our inherent right to self-defence, the international community has shown that its threshold for these barbarities have no limits. Today's Serbian attack is unmitigated terrorism against innocent civilians absolutely calling for the appropriate and only response.

The Security Council, under resolution 836 (1993), has the mandate to "deter attacks against the safe areas" (paragraph 5), and that this may be achieved by using "all necessary measures, through the use of air power" (paragraph 10). The international community has pledged to relieve the strangulation of Sarajevo.

The Security Council has already adopted the mandate and has given the authority required for the necessary response to today's atrocity. We request that the Security Council convene an emergency session to determine why the existing mandate has not been utilized to confront those who have attacked the United Nations designated "safe area" of Sarajevo and have committed this terrorist act. Previous failures to carry out this mandate have added to the attitude of impunity and invincibility of those committing these acts. This continuing inaction has directly contributed to today's massacre, and a failure to respond to today's terrorist acts will embolden and further encourage a repeat of today's tragedy.

Dr. Haris SILAJDZIC
Prime Minister